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SUNDAY, MARCH 2

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

In the Educational Department of The Times this morning we print an article from Rev. S. H. Thompson, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Farmville, Mr. Thompson was for years a resident of Halifax county and there conducted a large and influential school. He is an educated man, an educated teacher, an educated preacher—a preacher who is noted for his mental vigor, his courage and his moral integrity. Such a man is entitled to a respectful and considerate hearing upon all questions, and especially upon this subject of education, which he has made a life-long study.

Mr. Thompson addresses himself to some of the obstacles in the way of public education in Virginia. First of all, he speaks of "neighborhood littleness." He explains that every now and then is to be met in this community and that petty prejudice against the teachers, and that parents will sometimes keep their children away from school in order to punish the teacher. The second obstacle which he mentions is the lack of interest or pride in the school and its surroundings. He says that he has noticed in some sections that parents give little or no thought to the public school, too often for the reason that they are satisfied that their children are not getting much benefit from their attendance, and so do not care particularly whether they go or not.

In the third place, he speaks of the wretched condition of the school-houses in various parts of the State. We invite attention to what he says under this head as Dr. Frazier has been censured for what he said concerning the school-houses in Virginia. Dr. Frazier's remarks are reported very rather broad, but, having talked with him in private, we are sure that he did not mean to convey the impression that all country school-houses were mere hovels. Of course not. There are numerous school-houses in the rural districts that are altogether decent and comfortable, if not artistic, and we are sure that Dr. Frazier knows this as well as anybody. Nor does Mr. Thompson mean to say that all the school-houses of the country are "small log or frame, single-room affairs, innocent of paint or ornament, unsightly and uncomfortable." But he does mean to say that there are many such school-houses through the State, and in this he is abundantly borne out by the Virginia School Journal, the official organ of the State Board of Education. In an article on this subject published some time ago the Virginia School Journal said:

"This is the season of the year for school superintendents and school trustees to visit the schools in their respective jurisdictions and to see that all is going well with them. The public-school system has been in operation in Virginia for thirty years, and yet in many of the counties the school buildings are totally unfit for human habitation. In many instances they are old tenement houses that have been moved from the farm to the public road, and are not even owned by the district, but are the property of the landlord, and are let to the school at exorbitant rates, sometimes as much as one fourth of the original cost of the buildings. We know of some school districts in Virginia that do not own a single one of the buildings used by them for public school purposes, and yet these districts are rich in natural resources and taxable values.

"They seem to be willing to allow private persons to fit up deserted tenement houses or to build new ones at such places as may be convenient to them, and then charge the districts what they please for the use of them. This ought not to be. Whenever it is possible the district should own and control all the public school buildings.

"If then we wish to improve our schools, we must provide slightly, convenient and well-furnished buildings for the children. It is a shame that the children of this State are compelled to sit during the cold dreary winter months in such unsightly, uncomfortable buildings as many of the districts provide for them. No wonder the people complain that the schools are not doing what they should do for the rising generation. School officials should remember that the ugly, uncomfortable buildings in which school children are housed have a silent yet irresistible influence on the tastes and character of children that attend them. The bare walls fit the vacant mind, and the ugly surroundings teach the child to be content with ugly and inferior things.

"There is no more urgent demand for reform in any department of public school work than is the demand for better buildings in the rural districts.

Mr. Thompson also speaks of the "inefficient and poorly equipped teachers" as an obstacle to advancement in the public school system. He says that he has seen "well-equipped teachers thrust aside for some girl or boy who was totally unfit, both by nature and training, for this difficult work," and he cites some interesting examples which have come under his observation. These selections are made, he declares, through favoritism, or for political purposes, or for the selfish ends of certain members of the board. We trust that what he says under this head will also receive the most careful attention of the proper authorities. He declares that political influences are at work here and there in the system, and everybody who has taken the trouble to inquire knows that that is true.

On another page of to-day's Times we print a large number of communications on this subject. They should be read by all who feel an interest in the subject. We wish to say here that The Times, in inviting discussion on this subject, has not been partisan. We have opened our columns for these correspondents to say just what they think, and we are desirous of presenting both sides and all sides of the question.

The Times feels a deep interest in this subject, and as a public journal it is endeavoring to stir up the people, to get

them thoroughly interested, and the one object which we have in view is to improve the public school system of the State. If we have pointed out defects, it is because we wish to correct them.

**A KNOWNTY PROBLEM.**  
A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to prohibit the employment in manufacturing plants or mercantile establishments of children under fourteen years of age.

The Times has as tender a regard as any for the children of this Commonwealth, and we know that many of them are made to work in the factories and in the stores where they should be in school. We know also that in some cases indolent parents put their children to work into factories in order that they may live in idleness on the earnings of the little ones. Such cases have been called to our attention several times of late, and it makes the blood boil. Recently a girl came to Richmond from a neighboring city, and would have been lost if a kind-hearted policeman had not rescued her. She explained that she had a drunken father who kept her at work in a factory and took her wages to spend for drink; and so she determined to run away from him.

But there is another side to the question. There are widows—and quite a number of them. We doubt not—with a house full of children, whom they are not able to support, and in such cases the children must work or starve or go to the almshouse. It would be terrible to have a law which would prohibit such children from working, and this phase of the question must be taken into consideration by the members of the General Assembly.

We were talking some time ago with a cotton manufacturer, whom we know to be a thoroughly pious and kind-hearted man—a man who has done a great deal to help distressed humanity; a man who feels very kindly towards women and children. He said that he really did not desire to employ children in his factory, but that some of the appeals made to him by widows he simply could not resist. He declared that it was a matter of common humanity to give these children employment to keep starvation from the door; and, of course, when children of this sort are employed, other children, not so unfortunate, must be employed with them. It is a difficult problem to solve, and the Legislature in dealing with it must look at it from every point of view.

A TEUTONIC TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

There are unlimited possibilities for good in the visit of Prince Henry of Prussia to the United States. It has tended noticeably towards allaying prejudice and removing misunderstandings by merely revealing the good intentions of Germany and their willing acceptance by the American people. The cause of universal international amity will be advanced to the point of safety when the intercourse and reasoning of time have developed the intimate friendship for one another that exists between the Teutonic races in the original Germany, the later Great Britain and the United States. A tacit understanding for peace between these Governments would establish as thoroughly as by written treaty an inviolable balance of power.

The Anglo-Saxon race, as the English-speaking world is called for convenience's sake, sprang from the same Teutonic stock, which is pure to-day in the kingdoms of the German Empire and in Scandinavia. The present district of Angeln, in Schleswig-Holstein, was the home of the Angles, who migrated to Britain and gained the name of Angles, or England; and the English-speaking Saxons that emigrated later from the lowlands between the Elbe and the Weser were our progenitors, the Anglo-Saxons. The great grandfathers of the Normans were the Norsemen of Rollo the Dane. "Norman and Saxon and Dane are we," and whatever Celtic strains have crossed the Teutonic blood have been of as pure Aryan origin as that of the fairest Saxon in England. It is this livelier and more leaving strain of Celtic blood that makes the only basic difference between the German people and the English people and the American people. Variety of circumstance has done the rest. According to the Immigration Bureau, we have absorbed over fifteen million Germans since the Revolution (with their descendants probably twenty million) without a shock and to our good. Why? Simply because in all the elementary principles they are our blood relations. For the same reasons English immigrants are Americanized in a generation. This is not true of any other race, except perhaps the English-speaking Celts; and they were really long ago flooded with Scandinavian and Norman and English blood.

Recognizing that in blood and instincts and mental processes and language there is a most powerful affinity between Germany, Great Britain and the United States, it must follow as a Divine intention that these brethren should dwell together in amity; and to that end we devoutly believe that the best efforts of the best people of the three Powers should be made to cement a cordial friendship between them.

THE PENITENTIARY.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance refers editorially to the "open letter" which The Times recently published, exposing the disgraceful condition of things at the State penitentiary, and declares that "an outraged people are greatly incensed, and the legislature who dares to impede the swift passage of a bill having for its object the immediate relief of our penitentiary will be marked as an unfit person to represent any community."

The Free Lance concludes: "When such a conservative paper as The Richmond Times belis with indignation in a discussion of this subject and states, 'With full knowledge of the importance of the words we employ, we believe that the Almighty God will punish the legislature who dares to impede upon the State of Virginia if the Legislature does not soon go to the relief of those accursed wretches in the penitentiary.' It is high time something be done. When we curse God's creatures how can we expect to escape His curse? Who dares to violate the law he ought to be punished, but civilized punishment does not mean treating a fellow-man worse than a brute

or torturing him to death by inches. The Free Lance endorses every word employed by The Richmond Times in its address to the Legislature, and sincerely hopes that the time is near at hand when Virginians shall be relieved of this awful disgrace and the poor wretches at the penitentiary of their untold suffering.

Let us quit theorizing about the best way to relieve our penitentiary, and also the best way to improve our public roads, and let those in authority at once order the working of our public highways by Virginia's convicts.

The practical suggestion in the Free Lance's article is that "every citizen should at once place himself in direct communication with his representative in the Legislature and demand of him all the support that an honest relief bill shall require."

That is the best way to bring about a reform, but the difficulty is that the people of the State do not know how bad the penitentiary is. They believe that the statements concerning it have been exaggerated. If they knew they would not tolerate.

THE FATHER'S CRY.

"And one of the multitude answered and said, 'Thou hast a dumb spirit.' And he asked his father how long it is that this came unto him, and he said of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire and into the waters, to destroy him; but thou canst do nothing, have compassion in us and help us.' Jesus said are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe help thou mine unbelief.'—Mark xiv.

It is a pitiful picture here presented to us: A poor boy in agony of body, a father in deep and almost hopeless distress, surrounded by a crowd of idle on-lookers, unable to help in any way. It is a vivid picture also of the life of all true Christians. With them, as with the Master, work and conflict, amid scenes of weakness and sorrow, will always be the rule.

It was one of the Multitude that spoke—that multitude which lies about us, always oppressed with distress and helplessness and sin.

Here we see a whole family in misery because of one of its members. Trouble may be intensive as well as extensive. One prodigal may destroy the peace of the whole household. The wayward child in his sin is followed by the anguish of aching yet loving hearts that cannot let him go. If one member suffers, all the others suffer with it and through it. There is one remedy and only one—bring the sufferer to Christ!

This household was troubled by an uncontrollable circumstance. The sufferer in this case was not to blame. His affliction appealed therefore all the more strongly for him. Some troubles we bring upon ourselves; others are put into our lot by a power beyond us.

Alas! that there are some who seek to bring sorrow and shame on those who so tenderly love them! The gray hairs of a father, the tears of a mother, and unhealed, until too late. But in every case there may be help or relief by believing prayer. The sickness may be sore, the call long delayed, but no case is hopeless as long as prayer and effort may be made for it.

The blessing had already come to this afflicted family. The household was united in deep concern for one of its members. The father spoke, not for himself only, nor yet for the suffering boy, but for them all, when he said, "Have compassion on us, and help us."

Amid the sorrows of that household there shone the pure and lovely light of sympathy.

In His illness they were all bound together by the strong and tender tie of pity.

We learn from this incident how early in life we are attacked and injured by Satan. The Father gives a fearful description of the miseries inflicted on His poor Son. We are told further that he had been under this awful visitation from His infancy. It came on him "of a child."

There are much worse things than sorrow, or even death. It is when the members of a family can bear the sorrows untouched. A cold, unfeeling heart is a far greater calamity in a family, than the most painful prolonged affliction.

Which made his case more sad and the cure more difficult. The devil aims at the total ruin of those whom he rules and works, for he seeks whom he may devour.

We must not overlook the lesson here. We must labor to do good to our children from their earliest infancy. How soon in life a child becomes responsible it is difficult to say. Perhaps far sooner than we suppose. One thing is clear, it is never too soon to pray and strive for the salvation of the souls of our children; never too soon to tell them of God and Heaven and the cross of Christ. And when we have done all we are in the position of the father here. We bring them to Christ for His healing word and power. For into His hands we must soon or late commit the destinies of our children, knowing He will do what is right and best.

quired to look after the general health of the institution, to see that proper precautions are taken to prevent the spread of any contagious disease that may break out, to attend all cases of sickness, as well as to treat convicts who have been injured.

From October, 1900, to September, 1901, inclusive, the surgeon made 40,836 calls. He treated in the hospital 418 cases and in the cells 2,906, making a total of 3,324. He also treated more than 140 wounds of one sort or another.

The State hires out most of the convicts, and has been making something like \$50,000 a year net profit out of the institution. Yet the surgeon to the penitentiary receives only \$30 a month. It is generally conceded that the surgeon now in charge is thoroughly faithful in his duties, and it is also conceded that his services are worth far more to the State than the pay which he receives.

Ex-Governor Tyler, who understands the onerous duties of this position, has recently written a letter to a friend in Richmond, in which he expresses himself as being heartily in favor of a reasonable increase in the surgeon's pay.

The Richmond Review, a weekly publication, made its appearance on the streets of the city yesterday. It is edited by Mr. William Pendleton, one of the brightest writers in the city.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Two Distasteful Classes.

There are certain persons who, in order to show their dislike of monarchies, and perhaps to acquire a cheap reputation for patriotism, seize upon every opportunity to vaunt themselves upon their hatred of Kings, Princes and everything which in any manner, no matter how remote, pertains to royalty. These persons usually render themselves highly ridiculous. On the other hand, there are in this country, we are sorry to say, a very large number of persons whose greatest delight is to bask in the smiles of royalty, to bow themselves down and make obeisance to Kings and other foreign potentates. They dearly love Kings, Princes and Emperors and really seem not only willing but actually anxious to abuse themselves, if by doing so they can win the smiles and approval of royalty.

This latter class is much more ridiculous and far more contemptible than those who go to such lengths in protesting to show their contempt for royalty. Sensible people have very little patience with either class—Spirit of the Valley.

Danville's Night School.

The night school begun some two weeks or more ago in the lecture-room of the First Presbyterian Church, in this city, opens up a sphere of activity full of promise of incalculable good. Those who are giving their time and talent to this work will receive good second only to that which they confer. The object of this school, as has been previously stated, is to furnish instruction to young people whose necessities are such as to compel them to labor during the day and thus lose the opportunity of attending the public schools. The importance of such a school first impressed itself upon the minds of workers in the mission Sunday-schools. It was hard to give religious instruction where the rudiments of an education had not been acquired. We understand that the interest in the night school is remarkable. Unfavorable as the weather has been nearly ever since it opened, the attendance has been good and teachers are encouraged by exhibitions of aptitude and eagerness to learn.

Advice From A Friend.

Richmond seems to have been fairly heated in the Jamestown celebration matter by Norfolk, and she might as well fall in gracefully and help Norfolk "pull off" the biggest thing ever seen in the State. If Richmond will try she can make a big thing out of it, and she will over the character of the undertaking, and we feel quite sure she will lose nothing substantially by making the best of Norfolk's victory—Staunton News.

Redistricting The State.

Senator Barksdale has introduced a bill in the State Senate redistricting the State for Congressmen under the census of 1900. The bill is the subject of a bill introduced before the present Legislature. Every district as now constituted is changed by Mr. Barksdale's bill. All the counties and two cities (Charlottesville and Winchester) now composing the Seventh District are made the subject of a new district. Augusta county and the city of Staunton are transferred from the Tenth to the Sixth District, and Congressmen Oney and Flood are put in the same district. The Eastern Shore is made the Twelfth district, and the other two districts are put into the Second District. Many of the counties which have a large Republican vote are grouped in the Tenth District, but the new arrangement is said to leave all the other stricts Democratic.—Rockingham Register.

A Nation's Duty.

A decade ago we were doubtful about letting Sandwich Island fall into our lap. To-day we are reaching out and buying islands and archipelagos. We are no longer the Jack Horner of nations, sitting demurely in our corner and eating our humble pie, but we are being pulled in by the other side. It is unfortunate that many Democrats are holding on to the old traditions of political minorities—obstruction pure and simple, opposition for the sole purpose of embarrassing the majority—instead of seizing the wider field of our duty, and joining hands with all who favor progress. May we rise to the measure of these greater opportunities!—Gordonsville Gazette.

A New Industry.

As announced in the news columns of this paper the prospect of having a new canning industry in Emporia is good. Such an establishment would be of great value to the town and the county at large. It would help the farmers directly by giving them new crops by which they may escape the raising of cotton and peanuts, of which so many are heartily tired.—Emporia Messenger.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad.

Owing to temporary obstruction of connection track, Southern Railway through trains leaving Elba, northward, 6:12 P. M., daily, and arriving Elba, southward, 2 P. M., daily will not run via Richmond until further notice.

PRESENT CONDITION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By S. H. THOMPSON.

Editor of The Times:  
Sir—There is a popular saying that "The common schools are the hope of the State." If this be true, and in a great measure it is, then anything which tends to weaken or impair them tends to point out defects, to aid in making them more efficient, to bring the people to see that the very best results are attained by this vast expenditure of public revenues, should be welcomed by the general body of citizens throughout the Commonwealth. The aim of this paper, while containing some very unpalatable facts, is constructive and not destructive. I believe that the country school contains in its student body material which is vital to the future welfare of the State. There is in our citizenship that should appeal to the intelligence and patriotism of the Commonwealth more than those country boys and girls. The country school is of infinite importance to the body politic. In discussing the present condition of our schools, I shall confine myself to the schools in the rural districts.

I propose to consider some of the obstacles in their way and to point out what seems to me after years of experience, as some of the things which are most imperative needs. It has been my privilege to become acquainted with the country schools. I have sent many teachers from my own school-rooms into these rural communities, whose reports have, but I shall state only what I myself have seen or heard from those interested in the several schools.

I want to begin with what I choose to call the local obstacles in the way of the best results in these schools. These may be stated as follows: 1. The school-house. This crops out in many ways, but in each one of them does infinite harm. There is the spirit of meanness that keeps the children away from school to punish a teacher whom the parents do not like. It requires the teacher to make a certain sacrifice, and the object of keeping the children away was to cause a failure. I asked a farmer why his children were not in school, and he replied that he, with some of his neighbors, were determined to get rid of the school. I asked him to go to it. On investigation, I found that there was no objection specially to the teacher, but this crowd had wished some one else and deliberately set themselves to accomplish the ruin of the school. Then there is a fear of the school. A prejudice against teachers from a distance. The school is a neighborhood affair, and it must be given to a neighborhood boy or girl. This keeps the money in the community. There is also a disposition to find fault with anything that is not done in the school. It is better to do better work should I take these young people to the school-room and keep them at their books. This was said because some ignorant patron of my school found fault with the teacher's method of teaching, and the school was closed.

2. Lack of interest or pride in the school or its surroundings. The matter of teacher being settled for the current term is given, frequently no fourth year is given. I have known teachers with parents who complained that their children had learned nothing for the two past school terms, and a question brought out the fact that for more than half the time they had been out of the school.

3. I should like as one of the most pressing obstacles in the way of development, the school-house. These are usually small log or frame, single-room affairs, innocent of paint or ornament. They are frequently situated in some remote spot, or out of the way of the road, or somebody gave a half acre of land to have the school near him. If convenient, they are more unsightly often than the corn houses or the tobacco barns. They are often destitute of any conveniences for either of the children or the teacher. They are crowded and the result of jobbing in neighborhood politics. I knew a case where a man offered for two hundred and fifty-seven dollars to build three country school houses. These houses were supposed to be able to accommodate not less than one hundred and fifty children. A moment's reflection would show that no mortal man could build in remote districts three houses that would deserve the name of school-house for the sum mentioned. Heating devices and ventilation seldom trouble the owners of local school houses, but these buildings have no assurance of permanency even the most progressive teacher is discouraged in trying to beautify them and their surroundings. I have known them to be removed for the merest whim or caprice. I have in mind as I write a case where the best member of the Board had the school moved to his side of a large creek, because he did not want his children to cross it. This removal took the school four miles from many of its patrons.

4. Inefficient and poorly equipped teachers. This is a sin that is not quite a curse of the system. I have seen well equipped and capably-prepared teachers turned down for some girl or boy who was totally unfitted both by nature and training. I know two girls who received certificates, one a first grade, the other a second grade. These girls were in my school for a time, the one who held the first grade certificate, four years. She had taken a course of study, had taken my lectures on Methods and Management, and in every way done her best to prepare for teaching. She never failed in a year's examination while in school. The other girl never passed an examination in the school. She was as unfitted by nature as one well could be for a teacher. Her attendance at school was so irregular that the teacher asked the board to send her home. She came in this irregular way for about a year, and then dropped out. I was amazed that she should apply for a school. To my utter astonishment she not only received an appointment, but the other girl failed to be considered for it. Behind it all was "pull," as a local politician told me afterwards. Such a state of affairs can be duplicated in many, alas! very many, of our school districts.

5. In many instances the School Boards themselves are a great hindrance to the progress of the system. They are sought for purely personal and off-time mercenary motive. They can be and are used for one of three purposes, frequently for all three by the same person. These are, to supply positions to members of the family; to give political aid to the community; and to gain trade. It is amazing how many of these local School Boards are made up of the country merchants and local politicians. The merchants capture the trade of the teachers and their friends, while the petty politicians capture the votes and the influence. I knew a case where a negro teacher was given a school with the express understanding that he would buy a horse with the money from a member of the Board who was dealing in horses. I knew another case where a member of the Board was so interested in a school that he would pay a store bill of her mother. I know a school district in Virginia which is terrorized by an over-bearing member of the Board who is also a supervisor. The best people in that district told me that he never allowed a school to be taken to do so, and that no road mending could be done unless he was a partner in the job. I stayed in this district for nearly a fortnight and this was the universal

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Makes the skin soft as velvet, improves complexion, keeps the skin free from all pimples, wrinkles and all facial blemishes. Keep your digestion and blood in good order by using Munyon's Druggists' Cream. It makes you rich, rich blood, enables you to eat what you like and all you like. Cures dizziness, constipation and all stomach troubles.

such meetings the whole subject of public education could be discussed and thus a general interest could be awakened throughout the State. Four really interested educators, spending all their leisure hours in such work, would accomplish more in arousing and informing the people than all the summer no-nonsense would do in a lifetime.

S. H. THOMPSON.  
Farmville, Va.

OUR RELIGIOUS CONTEMPORARIES.

Religion means "crown." In the sad tragedy enacted outside the walls of Jerusalem on the day when Stephen gave up his life, there had been a faith which had been a crown. It had been a crown of Christian fidelity. The apostle Paul never forgot the part he played in that fatal enactment. When called by the divine voice to go "far hence unto the Gentiles," at once there came crowding upon his thoughts the day "when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed." It was then that "also was standing by the side of him," and kept the remembrance of them that slew him. This connection with Stephen had a shaping influence upon the apostle's life. As Augustine has well said, "Had there not been a Stephen, there had not been a Paul." From the hour of Stephen's martyrdom, the goods of conscience began to prick the heart of Saul, the persecutor, till, on the way to Damascus, he yielded himself to the spirit of God, and was reborn. "Whom will thou have me to do, Lord?"—Religious Herald.

1. Lent is a season of retirement. It is a special opportunity for self-denial, for self-discipline, for the exercise of self-control. But it is not as mere Lent. Self-cultivation, mere lovers of a type or saint. It is as servants of God, as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we are to use the period and season to bring under the body and practice habits of submission; to bring every thought of our hearts into captivity to the law of Christ. Mere self-denial, abstinence or fasting is a wholesome thing. But all that may be done from a wrong motive—for strife and debate—and not in the forward God and the world. "Whom will thou have me to do, Lord?"—Religious Herald.

2. The head in the sunlight, and the feet in the miry world is a picture of the Christian life. It is ours to walk where the paths are soiling and the weather sometimes treacherous.

not always easy to pick our steps and find a footing firm and safe. But above is the air of reason, and truth, of faith and high purpose. And over all is the sunlight of God's love, and the wash of the heavenly coming down to us with bidding and promise. It is the light of heaven on the darkness and peril of the world, showing us the one safe path. "This is the way, walk ye therein." As long as we have eyes, we must have to walk in the world. Duty and care there will be, covered dangers, my paths, stepping stones to lead, streams to cross; these are our perplexities, our problems, our anxious questions. But overhead we always have God's hand. Some that have no faith see only what is below, but those that look up find a heaven unclouded, a Sun of Righteousness, and beams of golden light, to cheer and comfort the weary traveler. Let us ever promise the day when the sun will never go down.—Central Presbyterian.

PERSONAL AND CRITICAL.

The drapery on President McKinley's pew in First Methodist Episcopal Church of Canton, Ohio, was removed the other day. Although all pews in the church are free, the McKinley pew has not been occupied by anyone since the funeral. It is to be permanently marked by a plate.

"Yes, suh," said the colored brother, "de mule took on 'thowed him sky-high, but Providence wuz on his side, en he lit squar on his head!"—Atlanta Constitution.

It is now asserted that Andrew Carnegie plagiarized in choosing for his epitaph the words: "Here lies a man who knew enough to surround himself with men wiser than he." The late Emperor Frederick, of Germany, made a speech shortly after his father's death in which he said, "My life was a great misadventure, especially because he knew how to surround himself with men greater than he was."

"Mr. President," said the Senator from Oklahoma, forcing himself to be calm, "as it is my intention to take a swift punch at the Senator from Arizona, I move you, sir, that the Senate go into executive session and from a ring." And it was so ordered.—Chicago Tribune.

It is interesting to note that John G. Milburn, of Buffalo, in whose house President McKinley was tenderly cared for after being mortally wounded by the assassin Crook, is a Democrat of sufficient prominence to be thought of by the New York Democracy as a candidate for Governor of that State.—Baltimore News.

It took nerve to go up San Juan hill, but before any man who accomplished that feat can gain a reputation for being without fear he should preside over a convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution.—Kansas City World.

SEE THAT YOU GET.

the genuine Dr. David's Cough Syrup and accept no "just as good" (so-called) remedy that a cheap, unscrupulous dealer may wish to force on you. Dr. David's Cough Syrup is put up by Owens & Minor Drug Company, whose name appears on the orange-colored carton. Price 25c for a large bottle.

CASTORIA.

The Kind You Have Always Bought